

JAMES B. WILSON AND MARGARET POWELL WILSON

James B. Wilson, son of James Thomas Wilson and Isabella Ross Wilson, was born



August 22, 1856, Carson City, Nevada. Married Margaret Powell September 29, 1881, in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She died and he married Hannah Lundin November 24, 1915. He died January 20, 1949, Midway.

Margaret Powell Wilson, daughter of Reese Powell and Margaret Morgan Powell, was born September 2, 1858, Llansawel, Carnarthenshire, South Wales. She died July 30, 1913, Midway.

Hannah Lundin, daughter of Andrus Gustof Lundin and Johanna Anderson Lundin, was born October 21, 1878, Dormosyo, Gränsberg, Sweden. She died December 21, 1959.

James B. Wilson, who pioneered in Wasatch County as a farmer, livestock man and community worker, came of Scotch-Irish stock. His great, great paternal grandfather was born in Scotland, but later moved to Ireland where James Thomas Wilson, father of James B., was born and reared. Isabella Ross, Mr. Wilson's mother, came of Scotch ancestry. Both families became converts to the restored gospel and emigrated to "Zion." James Thomas arrived in Utah with a pioneer company on September 3, 1852, and the Ross family reached Salt Lake City in September, 1854.

James T. Wilson and Isabella Ross were married November 16, 1855, and in the spring of 1856 were called to the Carson Valley Mission and settled in Carson City, Nevada, then still a part of the Utah Territory. In a rugged, primitive environment, in dire poverty, James B. Wilson, first child of this young couple, was born.

As a result of the approach of Johnson's army in 1857, the Carson Valley colonists were called back to Salt Lake City. Then began a series of severe experiences for survival. The Wilson family moved to San Pete County where the father gathered saleratus and old grease from which he made

soap. He peddled this product and home knit underwear to eke out an existence. In 1859, the family moved to Cache Valley, but returned to Salt Lake City in 1860. There on June 29, 1865, Isabella Ross, the twenty-nine year old mother died, leaving five children.

All was not on the dreary side in this period, however. In his early teens James B. heard Martin Harris, one of the witnesses of the Book of Mormon, bear his testimony to the divinity of that book. He also often heard the ringing exhortations of President Brigham Young and other church leaders. From these experiences coupled with his home training, he developed a faith that constantly grew throughout his long life. His formal schooling was meager, being completed with his "graduation" from the University of Utah after a few months of study in the winter of 1875-76. However, through constant self-improvement he became a truly educated man.

In early manhood Mr. Wilson taught school in Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County. At eighteen years of age he hauled timber, salt, and ore by ox team at \$6.00 per ton. It took a week for the trip from Salt Lake to Park City and return.

In 1875 Mr. Wilson became interested in cutting and hauling timber to the Alta mines. With his brother, Thomas R., he began timber operations in 1876. He pursued this work for several years and the timber cut in the "White Pines" was hauled by ox team to the Park City mines.

James B. Wilson's first visit to Midway dates back to 1872-73 when during a short sojourn there as a youth, he became interested in the farm he later homesteaded.

On September 29, 1881, Mr. Wilson married Margaret Powell, a cultured young Welsh immigrant, who came to Utah with her parents in 1873.

In November, 1884, the Wilson family took up permanent residence in Midway. Mr. Wilson homesteaded the tract of land upon which he set his heart in his youth. In 1885, the young homesteader "broke up" twenty acres of virgin soil with a hand plow drawn by oxen. This arduous toil continued year after year until the entire 160 acres were under cultivation. Beginning in 1885, Mr. Wilson and Fredrick Remund, a neighboring homesteader, built the Pine Ditch which had its source about one mile

up Pine Creek and extended around the side hills to the new farm.

From his homestead beginnings, Mr. Wilson and his sons branched out into an expanding farm and livestock program. The firm of James B. Wilson and Sons became one of the West's leading land and livestock operations. In the 1920's their bands of sheep numbered many thousands, their cattle hundreds of head and their land holdings consisted of thousands of acres and stretched for miles across the northern part of the Provo Valley.

James B. Wilson had a distinguished public career. Beginning in 1885, he served two terms as Justice of the Peace. He assisted in the organization of the Midway Irrigation Company. He helped organize and was president of the Midway Land and Livestock Company. In 1900 he was elected to the Midway town board and for fourteen years served as its president. When the town funds were insufficient to hire a marshal, Mr. Wilson filled that position without pay. During his administration as board president the first telephone service was brought to Midway. This was made possible through the citizens of Midway digging the holes and providing and setting the poles. As Midway town president, he with other community leaders, directed a successful campaign for the establishment of a municipal power plant. He also took the initiative in securing a spring from which water was conveyed to a sprinkling system in the Midway cemetery.

An active Republican in politics, he had a long career as a state legislator. Between 1903 and 1931, he served in eight legislative sessions over a period of sixteen years. While serving as a lawmaker, he was a leader in the move to build a new state capitol. At that time the state used part of the City and County building in Salt Lake City. He sponsored and guided the bill which made possible the development of Memorial Hill in Midway and helped to get certain Wasatch County roads into the state system.

Mr. Wilson was a loyal member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He became a charter member of the MIA while residing in the Salt Lake 12th Ward. For many years he acted as a ward teacher in Midway under Bishops David Van Wagener and John Watkins. He served for thirteen years (1904-1917) as a counselor

to Bishop Jacob Probst of the Midway Second Ward and twenty years (1917-1937) on the Wasatch Stake High Council. In 1925 and 1926, and again in 1927-28, he filled short term missions to the Northwest. He crowned his church work with seven years of labor as an ordained worker in the Salt Lake Temple. This service terminated in 1944 when he was 88 years old.

As a family man, Mr. Wilson sought to inculcate into the lives of his children an appreciation of life's fundamental values. While outwardly somewhat stern, this man had a deep, tender affection for his wife and family. This was evidenced by his devotion to her during her long illness in 1912-13, culminating in her death July 30, 1913.

Margaret Powell Wilson was a native of Wales and began life in a beautiful old home that had been occupied by the mother's family for generations. Margaret's parents were devout Christians, the father serving as chorister for the Baptist church.

However, shortly after the marriage of Margaret Morgan and Reese Powell in 1848, a new influence came into their lives. Elders of the Mormon church converted them to the Latter-day Saint faith. Their three children, Elizabeth, David and Margaret, were baptized as they reached the customary age. The nearest branch of the church was fifteen miles from the Powell home and the family frequently walked both ways to attend services. Margaret's mother was unswerving in her loyalty to the new faith and was eager to join the body of the church in Utah. Elizabeth came to America in 1872 and in August, 1873, the parents with David and Margaret, arrived in Salt Lake City.

The new home in "Zion" was a two-room adobe house built and paid for by Margaret's brother, David. The family were members of the Salt Lake Fifteenth ward in which many Welsh converts, former friends of the Powells, lived. At the age of eighteen, Margaret joined the Relief Society organization.

Margaret's mother never enjoyed robust health. Not long after arriving in Salt Lake, she contracted a severe cold from which she never fully recovered. For several years she was an invalid. Margaret was her nurse and constant companion until her mother's death on July 8, 1880.

It was sometime prior to this that Mar-

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garet met her future husband, James B. Wilson.

On September 29, 1881, James B. Wilson and Margaret Powell were married in the old Endowment House by Joseph F. Smith. However, Margaret's tender ministrations for her parents were not yet complete, for her father lived with the newly wed couple until his death February 11, 1882.

James B. and Margaret Wilson established their first home in Salt Lake City, but this they vacated and gave to Mr. Wilson's father when he returned homeless from a pioneering experience in Mesa, Arizona. Although unaccustomed to anything but urban life, Mrs. Wilson with her husband moved to a lonely homestead in Midway in 1884.

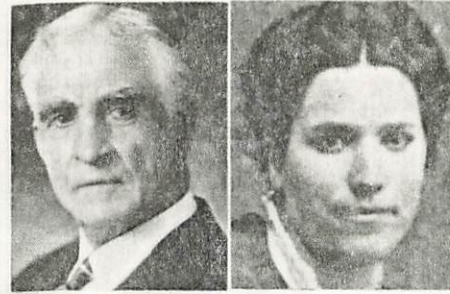
In the spring of 1891, the Wilson farm home and furnishings were destroyed by fire. A home in the town of Midway was then established. Mrs. Wilson was a woman of unusually good judgment not only in business affairs, but also on the problems of life. For years she conducted a neighborhood store in part of her two room home. The income from this store, supplemented by the proceeds from farm products, provided a large portion of the family support until the farming and livestock operations of her husband and sons were well established. She was an active Relief Society worker and served on the Old Folks Committee in Midway. Her life was dedicated to quiet service for her family, her neighbors, the sick and the poor. Mr. Wilson married Hannah Lundin November 24, 1915. She was a well educated woman. She was an efficient, capable stenographer when she met and married Mr. Wilson. She was an active worker in the Church and was devoted to her husband to the end.

She and Mr. Wilson reared two children after their marriage, Eugene Orgill, a nephew of Mrs. Wilson and Barbara whom they adopted.

Children of James B. and Margaret Powell Wilson were:

James Brigham, Jr., married Lota Huffaker;
Mrs. William G. (Edna) Young;
David J., married Mary Jacobs;
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Page 2 of 2



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JAMES THOMAS WILSON AND ISABELLA ROSS WILSON

James Thomas Wilson, son of Thomas Wilson and Jane Ellis Wilson. Born Oc-



tober 7, 1828, in parish of Namicullen County, Armagh, Ireland.

Married Isabella Ross November 16, 1855, Salt Lake City. Married Emily Mollissia Hancock, October 9, 1867, Salt Lake City. Married Annie Walker, February 8, 1877. Married Margaret Walker December 19, 1877, Salt Lake City. Died September 27, 1905, Midway.

At the age of eleven, during a depression in Ireland, James, with his family moved to Scotland, where his father secured employment for himself as well as for his four sons, James Thomas being the youngest. Their employment was in the mines, or pit as it was called in Scotland.

During their years in Ireland, their father was employed as a gardener. He worked for the same man for thirty years at 24c per day, plus two plots of land for his own garden. James Thomas, at the age of six was given a special part of the gardening. Then at eleven years he went into the pit in Scotland to work at 9c per day. But even that small wage was a great help to his family.

Their wages were small, but with five people working, the family was well provided for. They had such wonderful privileges in this job. Their employer hired a school teacher, a music and dancing teacher for the children of his employees. This training was compulsory. The boys who were old enough to work must attend night school. If they so much as missed one night, they were laid off work for two weeks, and compelled to go to school during the day as well as at night, for the whole two weeks. Up to this time James Thomas had had just his Sunday School training and a very few days of schooling. He was very interested in his school work, and was considered one of the best students in the class.

James Thomas was a drawer, one who pushes cars on a track, to the coal to be

loaded. He was so quick, active and strong that he was much sought after. He was just fourteen years old. One day while pushing the coal car to be loaded, it slipped off the track. In an effort to place the car back on the track, his right leg was injured. From this injury he had a slight limp the rest of his life. He became so ill that he was sent to another town in Scotland to a hospital. The doctors could not understand his case. They decided to remove the limb. He would not give his consent, but found a ride home with a neighbor. He was still very ill and spent most of his time in bed.

He learned to knit stockings, cravets and gloves. This hobby proved to be a blessing to him. He sold the articles he made, which furnished his spending money. Then too, knitting seemed to calm his restlessness.

This continued for several years until February, 1846, he heard that a Mormon Elder would be in their town to preach. He was not able to attend, but his brother, William, went to the meeting, then came home and told James Thomas all that had been said. He sent his brother to invite the Elder to visit him in his room. He used his own money to buy some food for a lunch. Then, after serving Elder McNaughton refreshments, he listened to the first principles of the Gospel and to James the 1st chapter and 5th verse.

He was a very humble, prayerful boy. He decided he did lack wisdom, and decided to fast and pray for three days and four nights. On the fourth night a sign was given him that helped him to decide right from wrong. He was baptized into the LDS Church, by Elder Hugh Murray, April 15, 1846. He enjoyed his labors in the Duray Branch very much, and was advanced in the priesthood while laboring in that branch. Through fasting, prayer and administration by the Elders, James Thomas' leg was healed. So much so, that he went back on his job in the coal pit.

He soon began planning to emigrate to America and then on to Utah. He sailed for America February 11, 1852. Between eight and nine weeks later, he landed at the mouth of the Mississippi River, through the Gulf of Mexico, then to New Orleans. From New Orleans, they sailed on up the Mississippi to St. Louis, which was seven days of travel. At St. Louis they were given living quarters in a sort of camp for emigrants. While they were waiting for a company to

be formed to go to Salt Lake City, James Thomas found employment with Sheriff Smart of St. Louis. During this wait in camp to go on west, the cholera attacked them. The townspeople were so afraid they would catch the terrible disease, that they gathered teams and wagons, and transported them all out in the desert. On May 15, 1852, the company, under the direction of A. O. Smoot, and C. Layton, began the trek to Salt Lake City. During this trip James Thomas was put in charge of A. O. Smoot's horses. That was his responsibility until he arrived in Salt Lake City. September 2, 1852, the company camped ten miles east of Salt Lake City. This was their last camp, so they celebrated by feasting on delicious tender beef, furnished by President Brigham Young, delivered by several people who came to meet the company and help them into the city. They were met by President Brigham Young and many Saints as they entered the city limits.

James Thomas did some work on the temple basement. He was working on this job when Daniel H. Wells asked him to come work for him. He accepted the position and worked for Daniel H. Wells as gardener and manager of gardens, yards and stock for six families. Garden plots were one and a quarter acres each.

By October 4, 1854, his mother, brothers William and George and sisters Mary and Rachel, arrived in Salt Lake City from Scotland. When he emigrated to America it was his intention to bring his family, all that were left, to America, then to Utah. He accomplished this in just two short years, working for sixteen dollars per month.

November 16, 1855, he married Isabella Ross. To this union six children were born. James B., his twin, Jered, still born. Thomas Ross, David John and Isabella R. His wife Isabella died June 24, 1865. They had been married almost ten years. She had accompanied him on his mission to Carson Valley in 1856, returning by request of President Brigham Young at the time of the general move of the Saints in 1855.

He married Emily Mollissia Hancock, October 9, 1867. Three children were born to them. Levi Ward, Emily Mollissia and Elizabeth Clayburn. These children did not live to maturity. In 1868 he sold his property in Salt Lake City to Daniel H. Wells, and moved to Midway, Wasatch County. Here he bought a log cabin and two lots,

MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

for which he paid two hundred dollars cash. He also bought a farm, and settled down to hard work, but plenty to support his family of nine. But through the unhappiness of his wife, Mollissia, who obtained a separation from him, he returned to Salt Lake City, bought back the home he had sold to Daniel H. Wells and returned to his previous position as gardener for Brother Wells. August 1876 he left Salt Lake for a short-term mission in Ireland and Scotland. He crossed the Irish Channel from Belfast to Scotland and England eight times during his mission. In the town of Stewerton, near Glasgow, Scotland, he met a young woman by the name of Annie Walker. She came to Salt Lake City with him and became his wife February 8, 1877. During that same summer he sent passage for Annie's sister, Margaret Walker.

Children born to James Thomas and Annie Walker were: George Walker Wilson, Daniel Henner Wilson, Joseph Fielding Wilson, Rachel Wilson, Ellen Marianne Wilson, Charles Innes Wilson, Ruth Wilson and Cordelia Wilson.

He married Margaret Walker in plural marriage December 19, 1877. Children born to this union were, Annie Terrace Wilson, Margaret Walker Wilson and Mary Ellis Wilson.

In 1881 he left Utah for Mesa, Arizona. There he bought 40 acres of land and a beautiful farm. From 1883 to 1884, he spent his winters in Mesa, Arizona, coming back to Midway in the spring, working in the White Pines, getting out timber, for the mines until late fall. In 1886 he sold his farm in Arizona and moved all his family back to Midway, where he spent the remainder of his life. In 1889 he was appointed Water Master on the east side of Snake Creek. This required the watering of all city lots. In 1890 he was elected Water Master to control the water of the Midway Irrigation Company.

He died September 27, 1905 in Midway at the age of 77 years.

WILLIAM WALTER
WILSON, SR. 686

Son of Thomas Wilson and Jane Ellis Wilson. Born September 19, 1825, Parish of Namicullen County, Armagh, Ireland. Married Emily Mansfield Gray. Married Mary Magdeline Manchel. Died March 8, 1880.

Emily Mansfield Gray, daughter of Samuel Gray and Maria Mansfield. Born March 2, 1837, Dalry, Dalryshire, England. Died May 19, 1890, Lewiston, Idaho.

Mary Magdeline Manchel, daughter of Sersine Mitchell Manchel and Mary Catherine Igger. Born February 29, 1846, St. Carline, Switzerland. Died January 7, 1897, West Jordan, Utah.

Children of William Walter Wilson, Sr. and Emily Mansfield Gray:

William John, married Madora Clift

Mrs. James Monroe (Emily Jane) Lowder

Mrs. W. H. (Maria) Bond

Thomas J., married Elizabeth Tanner

Robert Cunningham died in youth

Maggie Cunningham, married Joseph Foster; H. M. Tanner

James Thomas, married Ravenna Jordine George

Mrs. Richard (Lizzie Lindsay) Hale

Samuel, married Clara Malson

Mrs. J. J. (Cuilia Matilda) Brazier

Children of William Walter Wilson, Sr. and Mary Magdeline Manchel:

Mrs. William (Mary) Bennion

Catherine died in infancy

Isabella Mellisa

Robert Walter Mansfield, married Clara Goff

Mary Josephine

John Homer died in infancy

Mrs. William Eugene (Julia Cordelia) Wagstaff.

William Wilson, Sr., lived in the Fort String. He was a pioneer of Utah and helped in the development of the West. He was of sturdy stock and assumed his responsibilities with courage.



He was born in Salt Lake City on September 22, 1863, a son of Isabella Ross and James T. Wilson. He lived successively in the Provo Valley, Arizona and Midway.

On March 21, 1894, William married Elizabeth Bailey Coleman. She died January 21, 1901. He married again on December 23, 1903, Bertha Sonderegger. He died February 28, 1939, in Midway.

Much of his early life was spent on farm and range where he learned the value of hard work, thrift and industry. He and his brothers took contracts for timber and hauled wood from the White Pines to the Ontario Mine. Later he engaged in farming and livestock raising.

Born of parents who were pioneer immigrant converts to the Church, William was reared in a wholesome but humble atmosphere without many of the educational or material advantages that are so common today. Although he attended grammar school for a limited period, he loved learning and educated himself by spare-time study, constant reading, and the practice of handwriting. He cherished education and encouraged his children to achieve. They in turn sought his advice and help in their various educational pursuits. Often he would assist them when subject matter seemed difficult.

Despite his busy life and the seemingly endless toil, work and sacrifice demanded in the rearing of his large family, William Wil-

WILLIAM WALTER WILSON AND ELIZABETH B. COLEMAN WILSON AND BERTHA SONDEREGGER WILSON

William Walter Wilson was a man of unusual strength of character, industry and integrity, all of which made him a real influence for good in his home, community, and church.

son found time to do his share in the civic affairs of his community. He served for several terms as a member of the Midway Town Board, was secretary of the Midway Irrigation Company for many years, and assisted in various capacities in other civic organizations. Throughout his life he was active in sports both as a participant and as a patron and spectator. He enjoyed and encouraged all sports but especially favored baseball. In all worthy community activities he contributed freely.

Throughout his life William W. Wilson was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served his Church in many capacities. As a man of forty-six years with a wife and five children he fulfilled a mission to the Central States under President Samuel O. Bennion. Later he sent his daughter Elizabeth to serve in the Western States Mission. He was a member of the Midway First Ward Bishopric for thirteen years and held the office of High Priest. Also, he was an active member in the Church auxiliaries being in the Sunday School superintendency and for a number of years a teacher of the Parents' class, Mutual Improvement Association, and various Priesthood groups.

He had many interests and, busy as he was, made time to devote some of his energies to the things he liked to do. He possessed poetical ability and wrote many poems, some of which were read on patriotic and other public occasions. Being an inveterate reader, he spent as much time as possible at this interest. He was a lover of the theatre and dances.

Elizabeth Bailey Coleman was born at Midway, August 12, 1873, a daughter of William and Mary Clotworthy Coleman. She attended school at Midway. Her mother died when she was sixteen years old. She, being the eldest daughter, was given a mother's job in caring for her younger sister, two brothers, and her father who was in very poor health. She was an active worker in the YWMA. She married William W. Wilson March 19, 1894, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. To them were born six children. Three died in infancy. Three grew to adulthood. They are William Rondo Wilson who married Evelyn Benson, Elizabeth Isabella Wilson Willmore, who married Naaman Willmore and Cecil Coleman Wilson. Elizabeth died on January 21, 1901.

Bertha Wilson was an industrious, good woman. She was active in Relief Society, was a good neighbor and devoted mother.

William Wilson's children by his second wife include:

Evelyn;

Amos;

Grant;

Elda, married to F. Odell Stanley of San Jose, California;

Geneva, married William S. McKinley of Syracuse, New York;

Elaine, married Edward W. Hughes of Washington, D.C.;

Ross, married Betty Bernhisel, Salt Lake City;

Helen, married Capt. Alger E. Hageman of Columbus, Ohio;

Kathleen, married Dr. Scott E. Lockhart of Ogden.

